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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/444)*]

68/233. Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 65/178 of 20 December 2010, 66/220 of 22 December 2011 and 67/228 of 21 December 2012,

Recalling also the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security,[1] particularly the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security,

Recalling further the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2] Agenda 21,[3] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[4] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[5] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[6] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[7] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[8] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[9] the outcome document of the 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[10] the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries

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[1] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[6] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] Resolution 60/1.

[9] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[10] Resolution 65/1.

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for the Decade 2011–2020[11] and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013,[12]

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[13]

Noting the processes agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which are now under way, in particular the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, as well as the process to develop options for a technology facilitation mechanism,

Recalling its resolutions 66/221 of 22 December 2011 on the International Year of Quinoa, 2013, and 66/222 of 22 December 2011 on the International Year of Family Farming, 2014,

Expressing concern that the multiple and complex causes of the food crises that occur in different regions of the world, affecting developing countries, especially net food importers, and their consequences for food security and nutrition require a comprehensive and coordinated response in the short, medium and long term by national Governments, civil society and the international community, reiterating that the root causes of food insecurity and undernutrition are poverty and inequity, and remaining concerned that excessively volatile food prices pose a serious challenge to the fight against poverty and hunger and to the efforts of developing countries to attain food security and improved nutrition and to achieve the objective of reducing by half the proportion of undernourished people no later than 2015, as well as other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit, the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later,[14] including the goal of achieving food security for all through an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries, with an immediate view to reducing by half the proportion of undernourished people no later than 2015, as well as the commitment to achieving the goals set out in paragraph 19 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[15]

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by relevant international bodies and organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme, on agricultural development and on enhancing food security and improving nutrition outcomes,

Welcoming national, regional and international initiatives and commitments aimed at improving agriculture development, food security and nutrition,

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[11] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[12] Resolution 68/6.

[13] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[14] A/57/499, annex.

[15] Resolution 55/2.

Recalling the commitments made to achieve global food security, to reduce undernutrition and to provide adequate and predictable resources through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the financial and policy commitments set out in the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, and acknowledging the progress made in implementing the commitments under the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in support of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme,

Recalling also the adoption on 10 March 2010 of the Abuja Declaration on Development of Agribusiness and Agro-industries in Africa by the High-level Conference on the Development of Agribusiness and Agro-industries in Africa, endorsed by the Executive Council of the African Union at its eighteenth ordinary session, in which a call was made for, inter alia, renewed commitment to increasing allocations in national budgets to the agricultural sector and for the adoption of programmes to accelerate the development of value chains for strategic food commodities, build competitive food supply systems and reduce reliance on food imports,

Reaffirming that agriculture remains a fundamental and key sector for developing countries, and noting the importance of working towards eliminating all forms of protectionism and the commitments to comprehensive negotiations aimed at substantial improvement in market access, substantial reduction in trade-distorting national support and the parallel elimination of all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect as provided in the mandate from the Doha Work Programme,[16] the framework adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization on 1 August 2004 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005,

Reaffirming also the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities, and underlining the need to make special efforts to meet the nutritional needs, especially of women, children, older persons, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, as well as those living in vulnerable situations,

Stressing the importance of the preservation and sustainable use of the natural resource base for food security and nutrition, including, inter alia, through the sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity,

Remaining deeply concerned that, according to the most recent estimates of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 842 million people, or one in eight people in the world, suffer from chronic hunger and that 98 per cent of all hungry people live in developing countries, noting with concern that this number remains particularly high, and noting also that stunting is an important challenge to be addressed by Member States,

Remaining deeply concerned also about the continuing food insecurity and undernutrition being faced by millions of people in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel,

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[16] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

Reiterating the urgent need for action to address the adverse effects of climate change on food security, as well as the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition,

Acknowledging that food losses and waste, estimated at 1.3 billion tons annually, occur in lower- and higher-income countries at all stages of the food supply chain, as well as the consumption stage, and recognizing the need to take urgent measures to reduce pre- and post-harvest losses and waste of food,

Reiterating the importance of empowering rural women as critical agents for enhancing agricultural and rural development, food security and improved nutrition outcomes,

Recognizing that farmers, including small-scale farmers and fisherfolk, pastoralists and foresters, can make important contributions to sustainable development through production activities that are environmentally sound, enhance food security and nutrition outcomes, improve the livelihoods of the poor and invigorate production and sustained economic growth,

Recognizing also the importance of smallholder and family farmers, including women, cooperatives, indigenous peoples and local communities in developing countries, and their knowledge and practices, in the conservation and sustainable use of traditional crops and biodiversity, as well as livestock management, which play a positive role in contributing to the achievement of food security and improved nutrition outcomes, as well as in the implementation of development goals in such fields as employment policy, social integration, regional and rural development, agriculture and environmental protection,

Welcoming the outcome of the thirty-eighth session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, held in Rome from 15 to 22 June 2013,[17] in particular the decision to modify the Organization's first global goal from reducing to eradicating hunger,

Highlighting the importance of the five strategic objectives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Welcoming the outcome of the fortieth session of the Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome from 7 to 11 October 2013,

Recognizing the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security[18] by the Committee on World Food Security in 2012,

Recognizing also the ongoing inclusive consultative process within the Committee on World Food Security to develop voluntary and non-binding principles for responsible agricultural investments intended for all stakeholders that are involved in, benefit from or are affected by those principles,

Noting with appreciation the progress made in the consultative process, based on a twin-track approach, at the Committee on World Food Security to develop a programme of action for addressing food insecurity in protracted crises at the global, regional and national levels and for advancing greater understanding of the

[17] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2013/REP.

[18] Ibid., document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

multidimensional causes of protracted crises through sharing effective analytical tools to identify the root causes of food insecurity in such crises,

Taking note of the reports of the High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security on biofuels and food security and on investing in smallholder agriculture for food security,

Taking note also of the results of the global thematic consultation on hunger, food security and nutrition, jointly led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme, and presented at the global consultation in Madrid in April 2013,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[19]

2. *Reiterates* the need to adequately and urgently address agriculture development, food security and nutrition in the context of national, regional and international development policies, taking into account the importance of enhancing synergies between sustainable agriculture practices, biodiversity, food security, nutrition and development policies;

3. *Also reiterates* the importance of developing countries' determining their own food security strategies, that improving food security and nutrition is a global challenge and a national policy responsibility and that any plans for addressing this challenge in the context of eradicating poverty must be nationally articulated, designed, owned, led and built in consultation with all key stakeholders at the national level, as appropriate, and urges Member States, especially those affected, to make food security and nutrition a high priority and to reflect this in their national programmes and budgets;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to support Africa in the implementation of the various programmes under the New Partnership for Africa's Development, [20] especially the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;

5. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge, and the aim of a world free from hunger, and takes note of the progress made in improving cooperation, coordination and coherence by all stakeholders to overcome the challenges of hunger and malnutrition;

6. *Also welcomes* the six global targets set by the World Health Assembly to address global malnutrition;

7. *Takes note* of the Global Nutrition for Growth Compact, signed by more than 100 countries, companies and civil society organizations, to reduce the number of stunted children by 20 million by 2020 and the financial commitments made to support this goal;

8. *Also takes note* of the report of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on its thirty-eighth session,[17] which highlights, inter alia, the importance of the development of measures to protect Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems;

9. *Welcomes* the increased political commitment by Member States to tackle hunger and undernutrition, in this regard welcomes the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)

[19] A/68/311.

[20] A/57/304, annex.

Movement, and encourages Member States to engage in the SUN Movement at the global and country levels to further reduce global hunger and undernutrition, in particular in women, especially pregnant and lactating women, and children under age 2;

10. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen national information systems, as appropriate, in addressing the challenges of malnutrition and in assessing progress in order to stimulate coordinated and informed action at national, regional and global levels;

11. *Welcomes* the activities of the International Year of Quinoa, 2013, which have focused attention on the important role of quinoa, its biodiversity and nutritional value, as a way of promoting the traditional knowledge of the Andean and other indigenous peoples, contributing to the achievement of food security, improved nutrition and poverty eradication, raising awareness of their contribution to social, economic and environmental development and sharing good practices in the implementation of the International Year;

12. *Stresses* the need to address the root causes of excessive food price volatility, including its structural causes, at all levels, and the need to manage the risks linked to excessively volatile prices in agriculture commodities and their consequences for global food security and nutrition, as well as for smallholder farmers and poor urban dwellers;

13. *Also stresses* the need to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity globally, noting the diversity of agricultural conditions and systems, including through improving the functioning of markets and trading systems and strengthening international cooperation, particularly for developing countries, and by increasing public and private investment in sustainable agriculture, land management and rural development, and notes the benefit of such public and private investment and engagement to local smallholders with regard to promoting food security and improving nutrition outcomes;

14. *Encourages* all stakeholders to take part in the inclusive consultation and negotiation processes within the Committee on World Food Security for the development and broader ownership of principles for responsible agricultural investment that enhances food security and nutrition, which are to be submitted for endorsement by the Committee on World Food Security at its forty-first session in October 2014, taking into account existing frameworks, such as the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Bank;

15. *Recognizes* the need to increase the resilience of food and agricultural production to climate change, and encourages efforts at all levels to support climate-sensitive agricultural practices, including agroforestry, conservation agriculture, water management schemes, drought- and flood-resistant seeds and sustainable livestock management, including measures to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable groups and food systems, which can also have a wider positive impact, emphasizing adaptation to climate change as a major concern and objective for all farmers and food producers, especially small-scale producers;

16. *Reaffirms* the necessity to promote, enhance and support more sustainable agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, that improves food security, eradicates hunger and is economically

viable, while conserving land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, biodiversity and ecosystems and enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters, and further recognizes the need to maintain natural ecological processes that support food production systems;

17. *Stresses* the need to enhance sustainable livestock production systems, including through improving pasture land and irrigation schemes, in line with national policies, legislation, rules and regulations, enhanced sustainable water management systems and efforts to eradicate and prevent the spread of animal diseases, recognizing that the livelihoods of farmers, including pastoralists, and the health of livestock are intertwined;

18. *Also stresses* the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for food security and nutrition and in providing for the livelihoods of millions of people;

19. *Reaffirms* the need to strive for a comprehensive twin-track approach to food security and nutrition that consists of direct action to immediately tackle hunger for the most vulnerable and medium- and long-term sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition, and rural development programmes to eliminate the root causes of hunger and poverty, including through the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security;

20. *Encourages* efforts at all levels to establish and strengthen social protection measures and programmes, including national safety nets and protection programmes for the needy and vulnerable, such as food and cash-for-work, cash transfer and voucher programmes, school feeding programmes and mother-and-child nutrition programmes, and in this regard underlines the importance of increasing investment, capacity-building and systems development;

21. *Reaffirms* the need to promote a significant expansion of research on food, nutrition and agriculture, extension services, training and education, and of their funding, from all sources, to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability in order to strengthen agriculture as a key sector to promote development and to build up resilience to support better recovery from crisis and shock, including by strengthening the work of the reformed Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research so as to enhance its development impact, supporting national research systems, public universities and research institutions and promoting technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, the voluntary sharing of knowledge and practices and research to adapt to and mitigate climate change and improve equitable access to research results and technologies on mutually agreed terms at the national, regional and international levels, while giving due consideration to the preservation of genetic resources;

22. *Calls for* closing the gender gap in access to productive resources in agriculture, noting with concern that the gender gap persists for many assets, inputs and services, and stresses the need to invest in and strengthen efforts to empower women, in particular rural women, as well as to address their own food and nutritional needs and those of their families, and to promote adequate standards of living for them, as well as decent conditions for work and access to local, regional and global markets;

23. *Invites* Governments and international organizations, in collaboration with cooperatives and cooperative organizations, to promote, as appropriate, the growth of agricultural cooperatives and farmers' networks by providing easy access to affordable finance, promoting the adoption of sustainable production techniques

and investment in rural infrastructure and irrigation and strengthening marketing mechanisms and support for the participation of women in economic activities;

24. *Remains deeply concerned* about the recurring food insecurity and undernutrition in different regions of the world and their ongoing negative impact on health and nutrition, especially in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, and in this regard underlines the urgent need for joint efforts at all levels to respond to the situation in a coherent and effective manner;

25. *Welcomes* the launch of the Regional Road Map under the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative, Sahel, and emphasizes the need to improve the synergy, coherence and effectiveness of resilience initiatives in the region, including the need to link emergency and relief actions and longer-term strategies and programmes aimed at addressing the root causes of food crises, to build resilience among vulnerable populations in the Sahel;

26. *Notes* the challenges faced by indigenous peoples in the context of food security and nutrition, and in this regard calls upon States to take special actions to combat the root causes of the disproportionately high level of hunger and malnutrition among indigenous peoples;

27. *Recognizes* the role of indigenous peoples and small farmers and their traditional seed supply systems in the conservation of biodiversity and food security;

28. *Also recognizes* the contribution made thus far by early warning systems, and underlines that the reliability and timeliness of such systems should be strengthened at the national, regional and international levels, with a focus on countries that are particularly vulnerable to price shocks and food emergencies;

29. *Further recognizes* the importance of timely, accurate and transparent information in helping to address excessive food price volatility, notes global and regional initiatives, including the Agricultural Market Information System and its Rapid Response Forum, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Food Security Information System of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Asia-Pacific Information Platform on Food Security, and urges international organizations, private sector actors and Governments to participate and ensure the public dissemination of timely and quality food market information products;

30. *Recognizes* the importance of concrete initiatives aimed at improving protection for the most vulnerable against excessive price volatility through risk management strategies, tools and instruments, such as the pilot project led by the Economic Community of West African States for a targeted regional emergency humanitarian food reserve;

31. *Emphasizes* the need to revitalize the agriculture and rural development sectors, notably in developing countries, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner, and underlines the importance of taking the necessary actions to better address the needs of rural communities through, inter alia, enhancing access by agricultural producers, in particular small producers, women, indigenous peoples and people living in vulnerable situations, to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health care, social services, education, training, knowledge and appropriate and affordable technologies, including for efficient irrigation, reuse of treated wastewater and water harvesting and storage;

32. *Urges* Member States and international organizations to pursue policies and strategies that improve the functioning of national, regional and international markets and ensure equitable access for all to those markets, especially smallholder and women farmers in developing countries, notes the importance of non-trade-distorting special measures that are consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization aimed at creating incentives for smallholder farmers in developing countries to enable them to increase their productivity and to compete on a more equal footing in world food markets, and urges Member States to refrain from taking measures that are inconsistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization and that have adverse impacts on global, regional and national food security;

33. *Stresses* that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system will promote agriculture and rural development in developing countries and contribute to world food security, and urges national, regional and international strategies to promote the participation of farmers, especially smallholder farmers, including women, in community, national, regional and international markets;

34. *Welcomes* the convening of the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, in Bali, Indonesia, in the first week of December 2013;

35. *Stresses* the need to remove food export restrictions or extraordinary taxes on food purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by the World Food Programme, and not to impose them in the future;

36. *Also stresses* the need to continue to strengthen cooperation among the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, the regional commissions and all other relevant entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and international trade and economic institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates, in order to increase their effectiveness, as well as to strengthen cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the public and private sectors in promoting and strengthening efforts towards sustainable agriculture development, food security and nutrition;

37. *Further stresses* the need to significantly reduce post-harvest and other food losses and waste throughout the food supply chain through, inter alia, increased promotion of appropriate harvesting practices, agro-food processing, appropriate facilities for the storage and packaging of food and encouraging sustainable consumption patterns;

38. *Recognizes* the important role and inclusive nature of the Committee on World Food Security as a key organ in addressing the issue of global food security and nutrition;

39. *Encourages* international, regional and national efforts to strengthen the productive capacity of developing countries, in particular their small-scale producers, by, inter alia, improving the proper functioning of markets, storage, rural infrastructure, research and pre-harvest and post-harvest practices, in order to enhance the production, productivity and nutritional quality of food crops and promote sustainable practices in pre-harvest and post-harvest agricultural activities;

40. *Also encourages* countries to give due consideration to the dissemination, promotion and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National

Food Security,[18] as endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security on 11 May 2012;

41. *Looks forward* to the implementation of the International Year of Family Farming, 2014, recognizes the important contribution that family farming and smallholder farming can play in providing food security, reducing malnutrition and eradicating poverty in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, stresses the importance of development strategies for family farming and smallholder farming, as appropriate, and invites Member States, United Nations agencies, farmers' organizations and other partners to join efforts to successfully observe the International Year;

42. *Reaffirms* the commitments to making every effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in support of developing countries, in particular those countries that are lagging most behind and those Goals that are most off track, thus improving the lives of the poorest people;

43. *Encourages* Member States and all stakeholders to give appropriate consideration to agriculture development, food security and nutrition in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on developments related to issues highlighted in the present resolution;

45. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Agriculture development, food security and nutrition".

71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013